

1892-93. The '4 Atts' Surcharges.4 Atts. on 24 Atts.The History of the Issue (cont'd)

As far as actual information goes, only one issue of stamps overprinted in Siamese only is known, and it has been supposed that all the surcharging in Siamese was done at the end of 1892. However, the invariable association of each of the two Siamese types with definite settings of the English surcharge, known to have been prepared at widely different times, seems to point to a corresponding difference in the date of their own production, and it is thus quite possible that the first consignment, delivered by the Vacharindr Printing Office consisted of 84,000 stamps only, all surcharged with Type 1, and that the Siamese surcharges of Type 2 were prepared considerably later, at about the same date as the later English settings in which case the stamps of this type without the English surcharge would probably represent another emergency issue about June 1893.

On November 26th 1892, the Siam Mercantile Press delivered the first consignment of stamps surcharged in English, 72,000 in number. As far as can be ascertained, these were all of the Setting 1^a, and had the Siamese inscription inserted by handstamps of Type 1. These stamps were delivered directly to the Post Office, and were put into circulation immediately.

Setting 1^a

No further supplies were delivered until seven months after, and it seems most probable that the delivery on November 26th represented all that had up to then been authorised for surcharging.

On June 29th, 1913 the Siam Mercantile Press delivered 48,600 stamps and on July 3rd, 67,440, and on both these occasions they were delivered to the Treasury, and not to the Post Office direct, so that the exact date of issue to the Public is still uncertain, as is also the precise time of the surcharging in Siamese by the Vacharindr Printing Office. There seems no reason to doubt, however, that it was done about the same time as the English surcharging. Also, the short time that elapsed between the delivery on June 29th and that on July 3rd renders it almost certain that these two consignments represent a single order, so urgent that it was impossible